

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 080941Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 898

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

COMUSTDC TAIPEI TAIWAN

RUHQHQA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, CH, VS, VN, RP, TW

SUBJECT: ROC STUDENT CONCERN OVER SPRATLEYS

REF: TAIPEI A-219 OF DECEMBER 12, 1973 (NOTAL)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

TDC FOR J-22

1. CHANG CHIEN-HAN, NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND MEMBER OF KMT YOUTH COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING STUDENT ACTIVITIES, AND SUN CHEN, NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL, TOLD EMBOFFS FEB 8 THAT COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SPRATLEYS. CHANG AND SUN FELT THAT THERE WAS A SIMILARITY BETWEEN CURRENT DISPUTE AND SENKAKUS DISPUTE OF 1971. WHEN ASKED WHETHER
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STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE A POSSIBILITY, SUN REPLIED

THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STIR UP CHINESE STUDENTS OVERSEAS, AS THEY DID IN 1971, AND NEWS OF ACTIVITIES, BROUGHT BACK TO TAIWAN, COULD STIR UP LOCAL STUDENTS.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS IS FIRST REPORT WE HAVE HEARD OF POSSIBLE STUDENT ACTIVISM HERE ON SPRATLEYS ISSUE, BOTH CHANG AND SUN ARE IN A POSITION TO KNOW STUDENT CONCERNS. IN LOCAL TERMS THERE IS SIMILARITY BETWEEN CURRENT SITUATION AND THE SENKAKUS SITUATION OF 1971--TRADITIONAL CHINESE TERRITORY, AN ISSUE OF CHINESE NATIONALISM RATHER THAN PRC/ROC DISPUTE AND AN ISSUE WHERE STUDENTS COULD FEEL PUBLIC ACTIVISM WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT--AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT TO DISOWN.

3. IF CHINESE STUDENTS OVERSEAS BECOME ACTIVE IN CAUSE OF "CHINESE NATIONALISM", AND ISSUE CONTINUES TO GENERATE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS SIDES WHICH ARE REPORTED LOCALLY, FACTORS WHICH ACTIVATED STUDENTS IN 1971 COULD INDEED COME INTO PLAY, AGAIN FACING GOVERNMENT WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF HANDLING "PATRIOTIC STUDENTS". GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO FIND METHOD OF CONTROLLING AND CHANNELING STUDENT ACTIVISM WITHOUT EXERCISING TOO MUCH RESTRAINT. UNLIKE SENKAKUS ISSUE IN 1971, WE DOUBT STUDENT EMOTIONS WOULD BE DIRECTED AGAINST U.S.

4. AS NOTED REPAIR CHINESE STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. CAN HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON STUDENT ATTITUDES AND ACTIVITIES LOCALLY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON DEVELOPING CONCERN RE SPRATLEYS ET AL, AMONG CHINESE STUDENTS IN U.S. MCCONAUGHY

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